

A BETTER WAY

Ethnic groups in America have developed their own solidarity as a basic approach toward entry into the American mainstream.

Black Power seeks to create for black Americans leverages for the kind of coalescence which will change the current patterns of black defeat in employment, education, and civic life into new patterns of power and fulfillment. Philadelphia, for example, with 33% of the population black, has 9% Negroes in its employment force.

Clearly new approaches to the betterment of our worsening common life must be made. The July 20-23 National Conference on Black Power-through serious study and discussion-will seek to explore a better way.

This will represent the first major national dialogue by Black Americans on the creative possibilities inherent in the concept of Black Power. Let us not have those who have not explored the issue of black empowerment in depth speak for and continue to unthoughtfully negate Black Power.

Your help is needed in planning and through your early indication of a willingness to participate in this major national assembly of thoughtful and concerned black Americans.

We shall come together as in an intimate family gathering for the greater good of America as a whole.

The attached proposed format for the July 20-23, 1967, National Conference on Black Power was discussed in great detail at the Friday, May 5, special planning meeting. It incorporates ideas proposed at the April 22nd Planning Session and goes beyond by reflecting, in addition, several persistent and basic emphases of our planning.

(1) It allows, perhaps most important, for the greatest inclusiveness of persons and of insights; we recognize that we must enlist aggressively and build firmly and forthrightly for the unity of Black People for the greater good of all.

(2) It affords the opportunity to give to Black Power the widest possible image. We must not let Black Power-for all Black People-be associated, in any way, with our own largely local or philosophical concerns. This is the first really great opportunity we have had to give a cohesive national projection to Black Power.

(3) The proposed format centers on the crucial issue of empowerment. It seeks to subordinate other issues in the face of the paramount need to explore the possible dynamics of power in relation to a wide spectrum of concerns in the Black Community.

(4) By the division of a wide number of tasks among many people it will create the maximum of reasonable involvement of the greatest number of people of different disciplines.

(5) The emphasis is upon the hearing of the most competently prepared papers, of about 30 minutes each, by some of the nation's ablest black practitioners and scholars and, in the light of the presentation and initial studied reactions, to engage in dialogue on principles and programs which should issue in the area of immediate concern.

(6) There is good opportunity for the basic papers to be published. Every effort would therefore need to be made to have an eclectic field from among which to edit and select.

(7) Space requirements available to us allow for groups of 35-60 (and for smaller sub-groups) - incidentally, ideally suited for serious study and discussion. Hence our workshops will conform to these optimum numbers.

It is clear that we hope to have, by means of this type of format, the most substantial gathering of Black Americans possibly ever held for such serious, thoughtful and weighty discussions.

I have been in touch with a few distinguished black leaders from different parts of the country to ascertain their possible commitment to such a structure. The response have been most enthusiastic. In addition to the participation of these older and younger national leaders in their fields, there is a good possibility that we might have available to us one of the major- if not the most impressive- displays of work by Black American artists ever held. This could add much to grace our Conference.

The forgoing suggests that there would be many tasks for many people, and that "a great time" may be had by all, indeed! It would be good for us and for our nation and world in a way that is clearly needed.

One final word. We can all have a place in the Conference. But let us also help make room for others.

It would be most helpful if you would suggest persons who might be asked to fill some of the projected spots. May we hear from you on this and on any other concerns which you may have or raise for the Conference?

Please list names of possible leaders on the enclosed outline and return within ten days.

WORKSHOP DYNAMICS

- (1) Each Workshop would have a coordinator who would have responsibility for overall arrangements of and for the workshop. The coordinator would work closely with the key persons on program and with the conference chairman in order for arrangements to dovetail with other aspects of the conference.
- (2) An honorary chairman would be chosen to give image to the workshop. He or she should be a national figure whose association with the Conference would be of symbolic value in our projection of Black Power. Whether the image were perceived largely in positive or negative terms would not be crucial.
- (3) The presenter of the paper for the session should have the 30 minute paper sent to our office for duplication and limited distribution (at least to reactors, etc.) by June 20-25. The paper should zero in on the empowerment possibilities of the issue at hand, affording both analysis and practical program suggestions.
- (4) Two reactors should have read the paper in advance and should be prepared to give studied 3 minute comments immediately following the presentation of the paper.
- (5) A person to preside at each hour and 45 minute to 2 hour workshop session should be chosen ideally from among the planning session participants. The different presiding officers for each session should handle introductions and facilitate the discussion which follows.

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No honorarium or other financial considerations are available for those who prepare papers or who otherwise have leadership roles. The Conference is a cooperative and mutual-funding operation for and by those interested in the serious reflection at this time on issues involved in Black Power. The basic papers, with a strong editorial hand, it is hoped will be published.

Staff for the Conference should be on hand for briefing at 9:30 A.M. on July 20. Late breakfast and a noonday meal would have to be provided from our Conference budget.

Whom Do You Suggest?

Names listed are presently tentative.  
Please return your suggestions immediately or,  
if possible, call the office (201-622-4306) before May 20

Workshop I

The City and Black People: Civic and  
Social Concerns

Honorary Chairman:  
Coordinator:

Session 1 Who Should Own the Cities?:  
Housing Ownership and Civic Investment

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 2 Relief or Rehabilitation?

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 3 Education for All: Adults  
as Well as Children

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 4 Organizing for Immediate and  
Long-Range Needs: Police, Sanitation,  
and Survival

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 5 Black Research and Consulta-  
tion for Black-related Urban Problems

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
:  
Presiding:

Session 6 Problems of Population Move-  
ment and Mobilization

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Workshop II

Black Power Through Black Politics:  
Local, State, National

Honorary Chairman:  
Coordinator:

Session 1 Who Should Control the Cities?  
Politics of Control vs Politics of Parti-  
cipation

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 2 Politics of Poverty: How Black  
People are Kept Poor?

Paper by: Charles Hamilton  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 3 Independent Politics: Local,  
State, and National

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 4 Local Organization for Local  
Control: Who Gerrymanders Whom?

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 5 Coalitions from Power

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 6 Political Programs for Black  
Power

Paper by: Hon. Clarence Lee, Mayor  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Workshop III

Black Power in World Perspective:  
Nationalism and Internationalism

Honorary Chairman:  
Coordinator: Ron Karenga, Founder-Leader  
of US, Los Angeles, California

Session 1 Peace Mobilization & Black  
Power

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 2 Why Nationalism?

Paper by: Omar Ahmed, Harlem Citizens  
for Peace  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 3 Afro-Black American Solidarity

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 4 New Black Identity in a Pre-  
dominantly Colored World

Paper by: Dr. Adelaide Hill, Professor  
of African Affairs, Boston U  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 5 Let's Not Be Color Blind!

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 6 A Black Mythology & History

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Workshop IV

Black Power Through Economic Development

Honorary Chairman:  
Coordinator:

Session 1 Economics of Poverty: We Do  
Not Control Black Money

Paper by: Ivory Lyons, Ph.D., Professor  
of Economics, Northeastern U,  
Boston  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 2 Which Businesses for Black  
People?

Paper by: Hon. Cyril Tyson, Community  
Resources Adm, NYC  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 3 Black Cooperatives and the  
Capitalist System

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 4 Why Buy Black?

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 5 Research Marketing, Advertising,  
and Production

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 6 Economic Control of Urban  
Rebuilding

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

## Workshop V

### The Black Home

Honorary Chairman:  
Coordinator:

#### Session 1 Values of Black Family Life

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 2 Black Homes As Centers of Learning and Growth

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 3 The Option of Long-Term Relief-Immorality and Debilitation

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 4 Power vs Paternalism: The Re-Assessment of Family Life

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 5 Self-Image and Self-Respect

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 6 Researchers and Social Agencies

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

## Workshop VI

### Black Power & American Religion

Honorary Chairman:  
Coordinator: James Breedon, V.P., ESCRU

#### Session 1 Empowerment for Fulfillment: A Basic Religious Goal (Philosophical and theological definitions)

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 2 The Redemptive Function of Black Religion: The Gift of Blackness

Paper by: Professor Vincent Harding  
Spellman College  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 3 Black Organization Within White Churches

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 4 Power and Love: Black Churches As Creative Instruments of Power

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 5 Black Churches & Religious Re-Assessment

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

#### Session 6

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Workshop VII

New Roles for Black Youth

Honorary Chairman:

Coordinator: Byron Rushing, Commission  
on Religion and Race, Mass. Council  
of Churches

Session 1 Black Youth and Community Service: New Roles for the Building of Power

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 2 Organization and Education: The Under- and Unemployed

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 3 Education for Frustration?: The Problem Facing Black High School and College Youth

Paper by:

Reactors:

:

Presiding:

Session 4 The Pervasive Problem of Identity

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 5 Vocational Choices for Social Goals

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 6 Leadership and Learning: Preparation for Social, Political, and Economic Change

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Workshop VIII

Black Artists, Craftsmen, and Communications Personnel

Honorary Chairman:

Coordinator: Carroll Greene

Session 1 New Image for Black Professionals

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 2 The Vanishing Black Craftsman: Destructive Aspects of So-Called Integration

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 3 Art, Artists, and Black Power

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 4 New Roles for Black Writers

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 5 The News Media and Black Power

Paper by:

Reactors:

:

Presiding:

Session 6 New Coalitions for Group Power

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Workshop IX

Black Professionals and Black Power

Honorary Chairman:

Coordinator: Hoyt Fuller, Editor  
Negro Digest

Session 1 Black Intellectuals, Come Home!

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 2 Where Are We Headed In the Professional & Technical Fields?

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 3 New Responsibilities of Black Leadership

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 4 Special Functions of Black Colleges: (a) Education for Human Needs

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 5 Special Functions of Black Colleges: (b) Frontiers of Social Change

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 6

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Workshop X

Developmental Implications of Black Power

Honorary Chairman:

Coordinator: Dr. James Comer, Yale Child Development Center

Session 1 Personality Patterns and Black Power (a) Mental Illness & Social Disorganization

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 2 Personality Patterns and Black Power (b) Learning & Maturation

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 3 Vocational Guidance As Social Choice

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 4 New Roles for Social Services

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 5 New Roles for Government Services

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:

Session 6 Community Patterns & Relationships

Paper by:

Reactors:

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Presiding:



Workshop XIBlack Power and Social Change

Honorary Chairman:  
Coordinator:

Session 1 Identification of Key Issues

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 2 Long-range Planning and Assessment of Goals

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 3 New Forms of Community Organization: For Economic and Civic Development

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 4 New Forms of Community Organization: For Political Power

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 5 Black Power & Social Control

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 6 Power Relationships and Civic Improvement

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Workshop XIIFraternal, Civic, & Social Groups

Honorary Chairman:  
Coordinator:

Session 1 New Opportunities for Growth: Psychiatric Aspects of Group Identity

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 2 New Horizons for Group Power: Organizing Our Organizations

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 3 A Man's Best Friend Is Himself: Black Group Self-Interest

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 4 Continuing Re-Assessment: Empowerment As A Key to Goals

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 5 Social Solidarity and Group Maturity

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 6 Black Women and Black Power

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

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Workshop XIII

Cooperation and Alliances

Honorary Chairman: James Farmer  
Coordinator:

Session 1 Historical Review: How Selected Alliances Build Power

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 2 Cultural and Historical Relations: The Oppressor & the Oppressed

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 3 Black Power and National Fulfillment

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 4 The Myth of Black vs White: We are the Largest of Many Minorities

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 5 Black Leadership in Every Black Concern

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding:

Session 6 National Self-Interest: Why Non-Blacks Must Facilitate Black Power

Paper by:  
Reactors:  
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Presiding: